

315 interested in the Yumen Oil Field. In 1940, one well was completed, and a small refinery was also built in Yumen.

B. The Communist Period

*668 The Communist government has paid special attention to
47 developing the industrial potential of the Northwest, in order
*175 to remedy the unbalanced industrial development in the past.
Up to the end of 1955, the major accomplishments were as follows:

1. Shensi

*668 The most important industrial development in Shensi under
*175 the Communist regime is its textile industry. According to an
288 August, 1953, report, three new textile mills, presumably
the Northwest Number 2, 3, and 4 Plants, and one dye mill
were under construction in Central Shensi. At the same time,
three other textile mill were expanded. When these mills
are completed, the Northwest will have an additional 136,800
spindles and over 5,000 automatic looms. The total number of
spindles will then be three times and the number of looms 4.4
times those of 1949. According to an April, 1955, report, the
three mills have all been completed, and a Number 5 Plant,
with 100,000 spindles, was under construction. By the end of
1957, the total number of spindles in Shensi will be approximately
300,000.

A sheet and towel factory, known as Huang-ho Textile Factory, was built in Sian, first of its kind in the Northwest. It is expected to supply the people in the Northwest with over two hundred thousand bed sheets and bed covers of different colors and designs and one hundred and thirty dozens of pillow cases and face towels every year. Since it started production in March 1955, it has shipped many of its products to the areas inhabited by minority peoples in Chinghai and Sinkiang.

In addition to the textile industry, they have built or expanded the following factories in Shensi:

*668
*175 1. A new paint factory in Sian is supplying more than fifty
• (388) different products for the country's needs. This was completed
in 1953.

(256) 2. A flour mill of unidentified capacity was also built in
Sian during 1953.

(395) 3. The expanded Tien Chiang Instrument Manufacturing
Factory started production January 1955. Its output trebled
that of 1954. The instruments they made were for geological
surveys.

(339) 4. A mechanized brick factory in Sian started production in
April, 1954. It will turn out nearly one hundred million bricks
annually. Up to June, 1955, it has already supplied ten million
bricks to the construction of buildings in Sian.

iv] FROM HANCHUNG TO FENGHSIANG 49

road, here a good cart track, runs across an undulating wheat prairie, dotted with hamlets and walled farms, with the Wei River out of sight on the right hand, and the great barrier of the Ch'inling mountains on the left. Three townships are passed, Yapei, Hengch'u, and Huaiya, the second being of some interest as the home of a famous Sung Dynasty philosopher. The amount of wheat grown on these plains of Central Shensi is very great, especially nowadays since the suppression of opium cultivation. There is no better wheat flour in China than that of Shensi, and it forms the staple food of the population, eaten in the form of bread (*mo*) and macaroni (*kua mien*). With this excellent wheat flour, good mutton, and plenty of game in the mountains, the foreign traveller is well off as regards food. A sound rule for travel in the interior of China is to avoid all tinned foods and rely on native supplies cooked in foreign style; the former only increase one's baggage loads and are quite unnecessary; native food made up in the native style is unappetising to most foreigners as well as being dangerously dirty.

Mei Hsien, a second class district city, is a small place, but like Chouchih is the centre of a rich agricultural region comprising the plain between the Ch'inling Shan and the River Wei. The latter flows a few li to the north of the town. The city has suffered greatly from rebellions and brigandage during recent years.

From Mei Hsien to Fenghsiang Fu is called 110 li, but the road being good and mostly level, the distance can be covered in one long march. The Wei River, in the dry season a thick yellow stream a hundred yards wide and few feet deep, is crossed by a ferry and the road then runs westwards with the river on the left hand and a loess bluff on the right for 35 li to the village of Ts'aichia P'o. At the time of our visit this low-lying land was almost entirely devoted to indigo and dotted with the peculiar-looking brick pits in which the plants are mashed in preparing the dye. This is an old industry revived on account of the scarcity of aniline dyes. The indigo forms a useful rotation crop for the relief of the land exhausted by the everlasting wheat. We saw little else but wheat, cotton, and indigo during our tour of the loess of Central Shensi, growing on

the uplands, river plains, and irrigated lands respectively.

N.W. China AFB
Kalmyk

278 fourteen taels were paid in 1894 for 100 catties. At the beginning
437 of this century the price in Dankar dropped to 8 to 9 taels. The
rhubarb from Kue de brings 1 to 2 taels less because its rhizomes are
blackier and are therefore considered less efficacious.

324 The Mongols and Tibetans use this rhubarb only for dyes, not for
386 medicinal purposes. On the other hand, they use the stems of
262 another kind which the Mohammedans call sche hoang, that is, stone-
rhubarb, with leaves that are only slightly slit, as a vegetable.

000 On July 10 I left the Schang yurts. I had set Barun-Tsaidam as
my next goal, in order to supplement my supply of flour, which I
had not succeeded in doing in Schang. In Barun there is supposed to
be more barley than in Schang.

We had some difficulty in getting started. The small animals
had not got used to each other. The 37 head which I bought always
tried to stray apart and head for any larger herd. It was a mystery
to me how my men with unfailing accuracy always extricated my
animals from a flock of many hundreds of sheep and goats. But the
Chinese are good at things like that. It always amuses me to recall
an example illustrative of this distinguishing trait. It happened at an
inn in the lowlands. A guest and, of course, a grass widower had
just returned home from market carrying his supper consisting of
meat, eggs and flour, and the necessary fuel for it under his arm.
He threw the bundle of twigs down in front of the door of his room.
While he was in the room in order to fetch his cooking pot and pan,
a policeman who was keeping the all-too-troublesome gapers away
from me, hoping to earn a good tip, got himself a stick from the
bundle of faggots of my neighbor and paraded up and down with it at
some distance in front of the gate of the inn. The grass widower re-
turned. He took up his bundle and immediately discovered the
damage. A mere glance, and he recognized his property in the
hands of the policeman. Now, there was a second policeman with
a similar stick in his hand, standing at the gate, but the injured man
had immediately picked out the right one and also got back what be-
longed to him. The lies and excuses of the policeman were power-
less against his plausible arguments. He was able to give a minute
description of his firewood.

133 We traveled over low hills and a small saddle: at the end of our
day's march we crossed over the Yogh'ore gol, the outlet of the
Tossun Nor and the Alang Nor. The Yogh'ore Valley is wide and
flat-bottomed, the river is /344/ divided into several branches and
was now, at the time of the monsoon rains, rather deep. I had